

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, and 11-14 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been introduced into the application by virtue of the claim amendments.

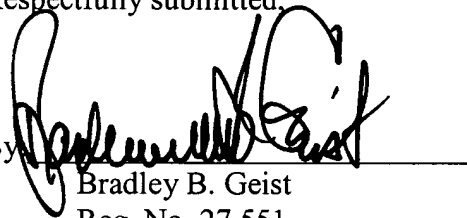
On the merits, Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,592,181 (Cai et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,956 (Hollenberg). The arguments advanced in support of this rejection are discussed in item No. 3 on pages 2-4 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §103 rejection to the extent it is not otherwise rendered moot in view of the amendments made to Claims 1 and 9 hereinabove. Applicants contend that the limitations now recited in Claims 1 and 9 are neither taught nor suggested in the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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